Production of Pulses

2011. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has drawn out plans to increase the yield of pulses through inter-cropping of cereals, cotton, sugarcane and oil seeds and targeting rice fallows of southern, eastern and central States;

(b) whether availability of pulses has fallen by drastic proportions in recent times and whether Government have decided to chalk out a programme for expanding the area under Kharif pulses by 8.0 million hectares and that under rabi pulses by 1.2 million hectares during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(c) whether Government propose introducing use of new technology to increase the per hectare yield of pulses to reduce imports dependency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) A centrally sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) is under implementation in 14 major pulses producing States to enhance the production and productivity of pulses. Further, with a view to enhancing the production of pulses in the country and achieve self-sufficiency, Government has proposed to launch a National Food Security Mission (NFSM) comprising rice, wheat and pulses in major growing States/districts during Eleven Plan. An area expansion of 2.47 million ha. through intercropping with pigeon pea, cereals, cotton, sugarcane, oilseeds, replacement of rainfed upland paddy during kharif and another 2.0 million ha. by-utilizing rice fallows in major rice growing States (in rabi) has been targeted during Eleventh Five Year Plan under NFSM-Pulses.

The requirement of pulses in the country is continuously increasing and the domestic production of pulses, despite various efforts has been unable to keep pace with the demand. In 2006-07 the production of pulses was 14.23 million tonnes against the requirement of 17.71 million tonnes.

The newly released high yielding varieties/hybrids of pulses developed by Indian Council of Agriculture Research/State Agriculture Universities system and International Crops Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) are being popularized through seed minikits. Further, Production technologies such as application of micronutrients (sulphur, zinc, boron etc.) in deficient soils, nutrition through bio-fertilizers, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), sprinkler irrigation, soil amelioration through application of gypsum/lime etc. are being promoted under ISOPOM for increasing the per ha. yield and production of pulses to reduce import dependence.

Ten-point programme for development of agricultrue

2012. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Ten-point Programme has been formulated for the development of agriculture and its related sectors in the 53rd meeting of National Development Council;